

MTSBA PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES

PHILOSOPHY OF LOCAL BOARD RESPONSIBILITY

Local School Boards exemplify American principles of representative democracy. MTSBA supports the concept of strong local control of school districts as established by the Montana Constitution. Acting with primary concern for the education of the students and being accountable to the public, school boards are community decision-making agencies for the public schools. Therefore, the Montana School Boards Association supports and recommends the following principles and guidelines:

SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE

- The American tradition of the separation of church and state is to be safeguarded vigorously.
- Funds raised by general taxation for educational purposes should be administered by public officials and not be used to support any privately operated schools.
- MTSBA recognizes that any group or individual has the right to establish and maintain schools as long as such schools are financed by their own supporters and are subject to governmental supervision needed to assure minimum standards of instruction.
- The Association opposes any proposal by the Congress or State Legislature to subsidize elementary or secondary schools through tax credits and/or vouchers for the parents or guardians of children who are enrolled in such schools.